RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 7th March, 1993/26th Phalguna, 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Package of economic incentives for youth in Punjab

*301. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:†
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out any package of economic incentives for youth in Punjab for a durable solution to militancy in Punjab after a democratic set up is established at different levels; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for the delay and the steps so far taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Government of Punjab has formulated a special Socio-Economic package which includes schemes to wean away the youth from militancy and equip them for gainful employment. The schemes included in the package are (i) to make three border districts as 'Zero unemployment districts' (ii) Self-Employment opportunities for 50,000 youth per year and (iii) strengthening of Technical education infrastructure in the State with a view to providing self-employment. In addition, the State Government has also formulated a scheme to provide counselling, technical training and assistance for gainful employment to wean the identified youth away from anti-national forces.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : सर, पंजाब में जब से मिलिटेंसी में इमरजेंसी शुरु हुई तब से यह महसूस किया गया कि प्रदेश में किसी हद तक बढ़ती बेरोजगारी व सरप्लस रिसोर्सेज के कारण पंजाब अंतर्राष्ट्रीय डिजाइन पर गन पकड़ने को मजबूर हुआ। क्या राजीव लोंगोवाल ऐकार्ड में पंजाब के लिए कोई इकनोमिक पैकेज तैयार किया गया था ? अब पंजाब में नयी डेमोक्रेटिक सरकार बन जाने के बाद इकनोमिक पैकेज की जगह चलिहा कमेटी दे दी गई और जिसमें कि बड़े स्तर पर वहां के इंटरव्यूज वगैरह हुए लेकिन इसी बीच में चलिहा कमेटी आ गई और जिसने पुलिस तक की नौकचियों पर, भर्तियों पर बैन लगा दिया । तो इसका क्या कारण है ? इस चलिहा कमेटी के बीच में आ जाने का क्या कारण है और इकनोमिक पैकेज की देरी के क्या कारण हैं ?

Has any specific reference to the Finance Commission been made to evolve an economic package? If so, what are the terms, and what is the response? If not, will a separate body of MLAs and MPs be constituted for this? May I have an assurance from the Minister that the ban on fresh employment in the government including that on a casual basis and the ban on appointment of policemen, which forms an important recommendation of the Raja Chelliah Committee, would not be enforced in Punjab where lakhs of unemployed youth are still exposed to the lust of gun power? Will Punjab and other States afflicted with terrorism like Kashmir, parts of Maharashtra, M.P. and Andhra Pradesh be exempted from the enforcement of the said recommendation of the Raja Chelliah Committee?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the Rajiv-Longowal Accord is concerned, it is a public document, and I do not think that any details need to be given at this stage. The information supplied by the Government of Punjab clearly shows that they have particularly chosen three border districts for zero unemployment and also other schemes for the welfare of the youth so that they are able to wean away these youth from militant elements.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

The Raja Chelliah Committee has not given any report so far, according to my information, to stop any kind of new recruitment. Making any reference to the Finance Commission will not arise. Also a team of MLAs and MPs need not go into all this. The State Government is competent enough to take a decision.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : सर, पजाब शांत हो गया । आसाम भी शांति की ओर अग्रसर है । कश्मीर में भी कुछ हो जाए तो हमारी सरकार की एक बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि होगी कि शांति हो जाए लेकिन हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि कोई भी राजनीतिक व्यवस्था सिर्फ इसलिए बेहतर नहीं हो जाती कि उसके विद्रोही कुछ दिन बाद पस्त हो जाते हैं या घर लौटकर आ जाते हैं । उनके मूल्यांकन की कसौटी तो यही होगी कि देश उनके लिए कितना जनाभिमुख और लोगों को कितना जागरुक व स्वाभिमानी बनाता है ? तो इस संबंध में मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि यह जो यूथ टेरोरिस्ट और मिसगाइडेड यूथ जिन्होंने अभी तक हथियार डाल दिये हैं या पकड़े गये हैं और या आत्मसमर्पण कर दिया है उन यूथ की सख्या क्या है और उन लोगो के लिए खास योजनाएं क्या हैं ? इन्दिरा जी जब प्रधान मंत्री थीं और श्री अर्जुन सिंह वहां के गवर्नर थे तो एक नई योजना दी गई थी जो वहां के यूथ के आर्थिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक विकास से संबंध रखती थी । रीजनल सेन्टर्स स्थापित करके, लोगों को सोशियो-इकोनोमिक और कल्चरल योजनाएं देकर उनका ध्यान दूसरी तरफ दिलाया गया था । तो क्या इस तरह के रीजनल कल्चरल सेन्टर्स पंजाब में स्थापित किये जायेंगे और पूरे नार्थ इंडिया के लिए कल्चरल सेन्टर स्थापित करने की दिशा में क्या प्रगति हुई है ? अगर नहीं हुई तो क्या सरकार इस प्रकार के सेन्टर्स स्थापित करने के लिए पुनर्विचार करेगी ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: About the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, I am in full agreement with her that these youths were misguided. But, I would not be able to give the exact number of those who surrendered to the Government and have totally given up the militant activities. There is no denying the fact that unemployment is also one of the reasons why the youths were attracted towards this militancy. Besides that there are other considerations also, which you cannot rule out. There are young people who actually were motivated by some other considerations, but now fortunately for us they have realised that these who were inciting them, in fact, were not interested in the cause which they were supposed to have espoused so far. They have now realised that they have been used as a kind of tool to destabilise India. That is why they have either surrendered or have totally given it up.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: The hon. Minister has specifically replied that the schemes included in the package are: (i) to make three border districts as 'zero unemployment districts', (ii) self-employment opportunities for 50,000 youths per year and (iii) strengthening of technical education infrastructure in the State. But, Sir, Punjab is known for its own agricultural way of development and production. I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister whether the Punjab Government has submitted a scheme for generating farm jobs for the unemployed and misguided youths in Punjab for the ensuing year. If so, how many job opportunities are to be generated thereunder? What are the other details thereof and what Central aid, if any, has been sought by the Punjab Government and what is the Government's response thereto?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: So far as the farm jobs are concerned, it is mostly from outside the State that people go over to Punjab, but they have hardly any agricultural labour available. I will be very happy if there is no surplus labour which can be absorbed in Punjab. Punjab is mostly getting the agricultural labour from Bihar and other places. That is why the wages are very high in that area. The scheme which has been finalised by the -Government of Punjab in the indus.rial sector is in fact, going to give employment. The target is 50,000. According to the information

supplied by the Government, about 30,000 youths have been provided employment so far. In the transport sector, while the target they have fixed is about 10,000, permits for mini-buses have been granted to 1,300. In the dairy, poultry, piggery and fishery sector the target for training for self-employment is about 10,000. About 5,000 youths have been trained so far. The Human Resource Development Ministry has been approached by the Punjab Government to specially create ITIs in that area so that some technical skill can be imparted to youths in order to make them self-employed. They have requested that the original scheme which was in vogue in the border areas needs to be revived. But the only point is that in the case of ITIs they are asking instead of 50 per cent assistance to be provided by the Centre, 100 per cent assistance should be provided for the ITIs. This matter is under the consideration of the Planning Commission. They have set apart certain amount for this kind of a job. But they have not yet taken a final view about it.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: My second supplementary is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have no second supplementary. I am sorry.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was very disappointing when last week the Prime Minister said that there was no such package available for Punjab. It is a cruel irony that when Punjab is in disturbed conditions, all types of packages are talked of and whenever peace comes back, the Government of India thinks it expedient to back out. May I know from the Minister whether he is aware that the Chief Minister of Punjab was on record having demanded that the issue of transfer of Chandigarh and water disputes be settled speedily? Is the Government going to take any step about it? This is number one.

Number two, may I know from the Minister whether the Government is having a full package on the lines of the Rajiv-Longowal agreement?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member knows very well what Rajiv-Longowal accord is. On those lines, the Government is certainly committed to the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. But whether it is going to help us in solving the issue is another problem. There are issues which are pending with the Government and the matters are so delicate that if they are discussed publicly, I am sure, it is going to create more complications than solving the issue.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Do it privately.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया : चेयरमैन साहब, पंजाब में अमन कायम हो गया है और उस अमन को मजबूत करने के लिए वहां इकोनोमिक एसिटेन्स पंजाब गवर्नमेंट को देना बहुत जरुरी है । वहां के जो नवजवान थे और जो अनइम्प्लाइड यूथ थे जिसकी वजह से वे मिलिटेन्सी में चले गये थे उनके लिए कोई स्पेशल पैकेज देना बड़ा जरुरी है । यह बात भी सही है कि जब तक पंजाब की ओवरआल इंडस्ट्रियल ग्रोथ नहीं होगी, अकेले छोटे से पैकेज से या जिन चीजों का जिक्र होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने किया है उतनी बातों से इतने बड़े प्रान्त में वे लोग एबजोर्ब नहीं हो सकेंगे । इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से वजीरे दाखला साहब से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इस बजट में जब सारे नार्थ ईस्टर्न को और हिमाचल प्रदेश को इंडस्ट्री में फाइव ईयर्स के लिए नई इंडस्ट्री लगाने के लिए एग्जेम्पशन दी गई है तो पंजाब ने कौन सा कसूर किया है कि वहां इंडस्ट्रीज को एग्जेम्पशन टेक्स में नहीं दी गई है, हिमाचल प्रदेश को यह फेसिलिटी दी गई है, तो कौन आदमी होगा जो पंजाब में एग्जेम्पशन न होने की वजह से वहां इंडस्ट्री लगाएगा और इस वजह से पजाब में इंडस्ट्रियल ग्रोथ नहीं होगी, तो कितने

नवजवानों को इस इंडस्ट्री में एबजोर्ब किया जा सकता है, वे इम्प्लायमेंट से वंचित रह जाएंगे ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the point which the hon. Member is making is about applying to Punjab the same pattern which is being applied to the inacessible mountainous areas. Mostly these North-Eastern States, the hilly States are very backward. From that point of view, I do not think that there can be any comparison between these States and the State of Punjab. In Punjab the problem of militancy is there. These is no doubt about it. In order to solve that issue, it is more a question of emotional rapprochement than of starting either this industry or that industry. I do not think that. in fact, this is going to be that important. But, certainly employment opportunities for the youth will have to be provided and the Government of Punjab are trying to explore all the possibilities to see that the educated youth. and also the uneducated youth, are given employment opportunities so that they do not fall a prey to the mechanitions of the militant forces.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Sir, the special socio-economic package formulated by the Government of India to wean away the youth from that path of militancy and to equip them for gainful employment is indeed a laudable step. But, as I understand, these measures are more in the nature of preventive steps. I would like to know from the hon. Minister where there are any special steps for the militants who have already surrendered. For example in Assam, more than 3000 of the ULFA militants have already surrendered and the Planning Commission has made a special provision to rehabilitate them and a sum of Rs. 110 crores has been provided for them and these boys are being trained so as to attract them to the small-scale industry sector. Bank loans are being provided to them and banks have been instructed to provide loans to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pleae put your question.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER: I am coming to the question, Sir. A hundred per cent seed money is given to them. All sorts of incentives are being provided to them. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any such measure is being proposed to be taken in the case of the militants who have surrendered in Punjab.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, already there are three or four schemes which are in operation in Punjab. The total employment potential of these schemes is going to be 1,06,560. This is specially meant for certain areas which can also include some of these militants who, in fact, have surrendered. I would like to give the details of the schemes. The number of bneficiaries under the schemes is 1,06,560; the total amount required for the implementaion of the schemes comes to about Rs. 12,075 crore; the State's share comes to Rs. 333.52 crores; the beneficiaries' contribution comes to Rs. 6287 crores; the share of the financial institutions comes to Rs. 878 crores: and the requirement of funds on an annual basis is in the range of Rs. 85 crores to Rs. 68 crores.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Thank you, Sir. When we consider Punjab, the heroic role played by the youth in resisting terrorism should also be considered. Dozens of youths had had to lay down their lives in fighting terrorists. The State President and State Secretary of my youth organisation, both of them, got killed in such encounters. My question is whether there is any special scheme by the Government to ensure some employment to the family members of these who have been killed in encounters while resisting militant attacks. If so, what are the details thereof? If there is no such scheme, will the Government consider such a scheme being evolved?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the very brave people who, in fact, became the victims of terrorist activities in that area are concerned, in the case of everyone who had been killed, they have been generously compensated by

the State Government and one of the schemes that they have is, giving employment opportunities to able-bodied persons, if they are otherwise qualified. But there is no denying the fact that more needs to be done for the families of those who had laid down their living. If the dependents are able-bodied who can possibly be self-employed, all the assistance which is required should be given by the State Government.? But, certainly, we will keep this in view.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा : सभापति महोदय, गृह मंत्री जी ने परस्पर विरोधी उत्तर दिया है । उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि वह राजीव लौंगोवाल समझौते के साथ अभी तक बंधे हुए हैं, सरकार उसको मानती है और यह भी कहा है कि दे आर अफ्रेड कि इससे कोई सालूशन या कोई परिस्थिति हल होगी । मेरा पूछना है कि अगर राजीव लौंगोवाल समझौते में जितनी बातें हैं, उसमें पोलिटिकस पैकेज भी है, इकोनोमिक बातें भी हैं, क्या उन सारी बातों को लागू करने के लिए वे कोई ठोस कदम उठाने के लिए तैयार हैं ? अगर राजीव लौंगोवाल समझौते के अन्दर जो पोलिटिकल बातें हैं उनको लागू करने से भी समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है तो इस समझौते के साथ बंधे रहने का उनका क्या प्रयोजन है, यह उत्तर मैं चाहता हूं ।

श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण : सभा पति महोदय, इसमें कोई परस्पर विरोधी बात हमने नहीं कही है । राजीव लौंगोवाल अकार्ड के बारे में पूरा कमिटमेंट गवर्नमेंट का है । मैंने कहा है कि इसके बारे में जो उसके अन्दर समस्याएं हैं, जिनका जिक्र उसके अन्दर किया गया है, वह पूरे ढंग से अमल में लाएं, इसके लिए कोशिश करनी होगी । लेकिन कोशिश करते वक्त इसमें दो तीन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इनवालव्ड हैं जब तक उनको इस बात पर राजी न किया जाए उस वक्त तक यह मामला हल नहीं हो पाएगा ।

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा : कितने साल में . . . (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: How many more years will it take?

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा : 1966 से यह मामला चल रहा है । कोई इकोनोमिक कारण से पंजाब की समस्या नहीं है । यह राजनीतिक समस्या है । इसको अगर इग्नोर करेंगे तो यह समस्या हल नहीं हो पाएगी ।

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This is your second supplementary.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि पहले तो बार्डर स्टेट्स म बड़े कारखाने इसलिये नहीं लगाए जाते थे कि विदेशी ताकतों द्वारा उनको सेबोटेज करने का भय होता था । अब जो नयी वेपनरी या नयी डिफेंस टेक्नोलोजी है उसके अनुसार पाकिस्तान या चीन से हैदराबाद और तमिलनाडु के कारखाने भी नष्ट किये जा सकते हैं । ऐसी मिज़ाइल्ज उनके पास हैं । तो अब इस का कोई औचित्य नहीं रह जाता कि बार्डर स्टेट्स में बड़े कारखाने न लगाए जाएं । अब मैं अपने प्रश्न पर आता हूं । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि पंजाब में मंडी गोबिन्द गढ़, स्टील सिटी के नाम से जाना जाता है । जितनी रोलिंग मिल्ज वहां हैं उतनी किसी अन्य शहर में नहीं हैं । मंडी गोबिन्द गढ़ में तीन सौ रोलिंग मिल्ज हैं जो अपना कच्चा माल भिलाई, बोकारो, दुर्गापुर और रुड़केला स्टील प्लांट्स से लेती हैं । क्या आप वहां पर कोई स्टील इंडस्ट्री जो पेलेट्स प्रोड्यूस करे लगाने का कोई प्रावधान रख रहे हैं, सोच विचार चल रहा है उसके साथ साथ कास्ट आइरन और पिग आइरन की जो रिक्वायरमेंट पंजाब की है क्योंकि सारी लेथ मशीस और प्रिंटिंग मशीस पंजाब में बनती है, पंजाब सब से बड़ा मेनुफेक्चरर है, यहां मशीनें वहां से एक्सपोर्ट भी की जाती हैं, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या कास्ट आइरन और पिग आइरन भी जो बाहर से आता है, क्या वहां पर इसको मेनुफेक्चर करने के लिए कोई विचार आ रहा है या नहीं आ रहा है ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I can appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member from the kind of question he has asked. But, at the same time, more useful information will be available if the question is addressed to the Steel Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 302. (*Interruptions*)

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : सभापति जी, यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है । सारा समय निकल गया है एक सवाल भी मुझे नहीं दिया गया **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken 25 minutes on the question.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह : सारा सेशन निकल गया है । इतना सीरियस मुद्दा है और पंजाब के संबंध में खास तौर से . . . **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you next time. (*Interruptions*)

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : वह नेक्सट सेशन में होगा। इस पर तो मेरा क्वेश्चन आज चला गया **(व्यवधान)**

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We can have a half-an-hour discussion on this question. (*Interruptions*)

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान सारा सेशन गुजर गया । फिर मुझ को यह कह दीजिये कि आप क्वेश्चन आवर में मत आया कीजिये । ऐसा तो नहीं होता **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you ask the question tomorrow?

(*Interruptions*)

Will you please sit down?

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : इतने दिन से सेशन चल रहा है, पंजाब के संबंध में एक भी सवाल नहीं आया, आप रिकार्ड देख लीजिये **(व्यवधान)**

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, all the questions are impotrant. (*Interruptions*). We cannot spend the whole Question Hour on one question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. (*Interruptions*). This question is over. I have called the other question. Will you please sit down?

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : ओ०के० साहब मैं चला जाता हूं अगर यह बात है । मुझे क्वेश्चन आवर में कह दीजिए कि आप बाहर रहिए . . . **(व्यवधान)** इसलिए मैं बाहर जाता हूं . . . **(व्यवधान)** वाक आउट करके जाता हूं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. . . (*Interruptions*). . . We cannot discuss the whole issue by raising a question. Next question.

Improvement of Technology in the Railways

*302. SHRI IQBAL SINGH †
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the technological improvements made by the Railways in various fields of its operation during the last two years;

(b) how the Railways have been able to improve its operational efficiency due to these technological changes; and

(c) what are the proposals for bringing advanced technology by Railways in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Iqbal Singh.